

ABSTRACT

A method and associated apparatus and software are provided to determine issuance intervals for like types of tables, respectively, in a digital television packet stream having a plurality of different types of tables. Such a method according to an aspect of the present invention includes setting issuance intervals for the tables, respectively, to be non-uniform. Such non-uniform issuance intervals can be determined as a function of at least one of an amount of time in the future to which the table corresponds and a degree of probable interest to a viewer. Further, such non-uniform issuance intervals can be weighted so that an issuance interval for a table corresponding to a time nearer the present is smaller than an issuance interval corresponding to a time further in the future.